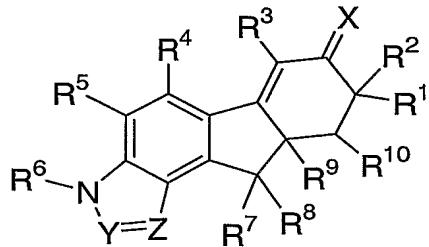


## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. The use of an  $\text{ER}\beta$  agonist for the preparation of a medicament useful in the treatment of hypertension, cardiac dysfunction or stroke, in a mammal in need thereof.

2. The use according to Claim 1 wherein the agonist is a compound of the formula:



wherein X is O or  $\text{N-OR}^a$ ;

Y is N or  $\text{CH}$ ;

Z is N or  $\text{CR}^f$ ;

$\text{R}^1$  is hydrogen or  $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkyl;

$\text{R}^2$  is hydrogen, hydroxy, iodo or  $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkyl;

$\text{R}^3$  is hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, cyano, nitro,  $\text{NR}^a\text{RC}$ ,  $\text{OR}^a$ ,  $\text{S(O)Ra}$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{Ra}$ ,  $\text{SR}^a$ ,  $\text{C(=O)Ra}$ ,  $\text{CO}_2\text{RC}$ ,  $\text{CONRaRC}$ ,  $\text{C}_{1-10}$ alkyl,  $\text{C}_{2-10}$ alkenyl,  $\text{C}_{2-10}$ alkynyl,  $\text{C}_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, 4-7 membered heterocycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, arylalkyl, or heteroarylalkyl, wherein said alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl and heteroaryl groups are optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 groups selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, cyano,  $\text{OR}^a$ ,  $\text{NR}^a\text{RC}$ ,  $\text{O(C=O)Ra}$ ,  $\text{O(C=O)NR}^a\text{RC}$ ,  $\text{NR}^a(\text{C=O})\text{RC}$ ,  $\text{NR}^a(\text{C=O})\text{OR}^c$ ,  $\text{C(=O)Ra}$ ,  $\text{CO}_2\text{Ra}$ ,  $\text{CONRaRC}$ ,  $\text{CSNR}^a\text{RC}$ ,  $\text{SR}^a$ ,  $\text{S(O)Ra}$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{Ra}$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^a\text{RC}$ ,  $\text{LR}^d$ , and  $\text{MLR}^d$ ;

$\text{R}^4$  is hydrogen, hydroxy, methyl, fluoro or chloro;

$\text{R}^5$  is hydrogen, hydroxy, fluoro or chloro;

$\text{R}^6$  is hydrogen,  $(\text{C=O})\text{R}^a$  or  $(\text{C=O})\text{OR}^a$ ;

$\text{R}^7$  is hydrogen, fluoro, chloro or  $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkyl;

$\text{R}^8$  is hydrogen, fluoro, chloro or  $\text{C}_{1-6}$ alkyl;

or  $\text{R}^7$  and  $\text{R}^8$ , when taken together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a carbonyl group;

$\text{R}^9$  is hydrogen,  $\text{C}_{1-10}$ alkyl,  $\text{C}_{2-10}$ alkenyl,  $\text{C}_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl,  $\text{C}_{3-6}$ cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, arylalkyl or heteroarylalkyl, wherein said alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl,

heteroaryl, arylalkyl and heteroarylalkyl groups are optionally substituted with chloro, bromo, OR<sup>b</sup>, SR<sup>b</sup> or 1-5 fluoro;

or R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>1</sup>, when taken together with the three intervening carbon atoms to which they are attached, form a 5-6 membered cycloalkyl ring which is optionally substituted with 1-3 fluoro, chloro, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>alkenyl or C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkylalkyl, wherein said alkyl, alkenyl and cycloalkylalkyl groups are optionally substituted with chloro, OR<sup>b</sup>, SR<sup>b</sup> or 1-5 fluoro;

R<sup>10</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1-10</sub>alkyl;

R<sup>a</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1-10</sub>alkyl or phenyl, wherein said alkyl group is optionally substituted with hydroxy, amino, O(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl), NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl), N(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, phenyl or 1-5 fluoro, and wherein said phenyl group is optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, OH, O(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl), NH<sub>2</sub>, NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl), NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, halo, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>H, CO<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl), C(O)H, and C(O)(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl);

R<sup>b</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1-10</sub>alkyl, benzyl or phenyl, wherein said phenyl group is optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, OH, O(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl), NH<sub>2</sub>, NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl), NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, halo, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>H, CO<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl), C(O)H and C(O)(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl);

R<sup>c</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1-10</sub>alkyl or phenyl, wherein said phenyl group is optionally substituted with 1-3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, OH, O(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl), NH<sub>2</sub>, NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl), NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, halo, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>H, CO<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl), C(O)H and C(O)(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl);

or R<sup>a</sup> and R<sup>c</sup>, whether or not on the same atom, can be taken together with any attached and intervening atoms to form a 4-7 membered ring;

R<sup>d</sup> is NR<sup>b</sup>RC, OR<sup>a</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>a</sup>, O(C=O)R<sup>a</sup>, CN, NR<sup>c</sup>(C=O)R<sup>b</sup>, CONR<sup>a</sup>RC, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>a</sup>RC or a 4-7 membered N-heterocycloalkyl ring that is optionally interrupted by O, S, NR<sup>c</sup>, or C=O;

R<sup>e</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>alkenyl, CF<sub>3</sub>, halo, O(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl), NH<sub>2</sub>, NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl) or N(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>;

R<sup>f</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>alkenyl, CF<sub>3</sub>, halo, O(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl), NO<sub>2</sub>, NH<sub>2</sub>, NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl) or N(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)<sub>2</sub>;

L is CR<sup>b</sup>RC, C<sub>2-6</sub>alkylene or C<sub>2-6</sub>alkenylene, wherein said alkylene and alkenylene groups are optionally interrupted by O, S, or NR<sup>c</sup>;

M is O, S, NR<sup>c</sup>, C=O, O(C=O), (C=O)O, NR<sup>c</sup>(C=O) or (C=O)NR<sup>c</sup>;

or a salt or stereoisomer thereof.

## 3. The use according to Claim 2 wherein

**X** is O, N-OH or N-OCH<sub>3</sub>;

**Y** is N or CH;

**Z** is N, CH, CF or CCl;

**R**<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1-3</sub>alkyl;

**R**<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen, hydroxy, iodo or C<sub>1-3</sub>alkyl;

**R**<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen, chloro, bromo, iodo, C<sub>1-10</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-10</sub>alkenyl, C<sub>3-7</sub>cycloalkyl or aryl, wherein said alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl and aryl groups are optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 groups selected from the group consisting of fluoro, OR<sup>a</sup>, NR<sup>a</sup>R<sup>c</sup>, LR<sup>d</sup> and MLR<sup>d</sup>;

**R**<sup>4</sup> is hydrogen, methyl or fluoro;

**R**<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen or fluoro;

**R**<sup>6</sup> is hydrogen or C(=O)OR<sup>a</sup>;

**R**<sup>7</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;

**R**<sup>8</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;

**R**<sup>9</sup> is C<sub>1-10</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-10</sub>alkenyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl or C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkylalkyl;

**R**<sup>10</sup> is hydrogen.

## 4. The use according to Claim 2 wherein

**X** is O and **Z** is N or CH.

## 5. The use according to Claim 1 wherein the agonist is:

9a-ethyl-1,6-dimethyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indol-7(3*H*)-one;

9a-ethyl-6-methyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indol-7(3*H*)-one;

1-chloro-9a-ethyl-6-methyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indol-7(3*H*)-one;

9a-ethyl-6-methyl-1-nitro-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indol-7(3*H*)-one;

6-acetyl-9a-butyl-4-fluoro-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indol-7(3*H*)-one;

6-methyl-9a-propyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indol-7(3*H*)-one;

9a-ethyl-4-fluoro-6-methyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indol-7(3*H*)-one;

6,9a-diethyl-4-fluoro-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indol-7(3*H*)-one;

9a-butyl-4-fluoro-6-methyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indol-7(3*H*)-one;

9a-butyl-6-ethyl-4-fluoro-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indol-7(3*H*)-one;

6,9a-dimethyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;

6-bromo-9a-methyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;

9a-ethyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;

9a-ethyl-6-methyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;

6-bromo-9a-ethyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
9a-ethyl-6-trifluoromethyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
9a-ethyl-6-{4-[2-(1-piperidinyl)ethoxy]phenyl}-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one hydrochloride salt;  
9a-ethyl-6-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
9a-ethyl-6-vinyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
6,9a-diethyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
6-allyl-9a-ethyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
9a-ethyl-6-isopropyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
6-butyl-9a-ethyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
6-cyclopentyl-9a-ethyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
6-cyano-9a-ethyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
9a-ethyl-6-methoxy-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
1-chloro-9a-ethyl-6-methyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
1-bromo-9a-ethyl-6-methyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
9a-ethyl-6-methyl-9,9a-dihydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazole-7,10(3*H*,8*H*)-dione;  
10-chloro-9a-ethyl-6-methyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
10-azido-9a-ethyl-6-methyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
6-bromo-9a-ethyl-9,9a-dihydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazole-7,10(3*H*,8*H*)-dione;  
10-amino-9a-ethyl-6-methyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
9a-ethyl-10-methoxy-6-methyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
9a-ethyl-6,10-dimethyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
9a-ethyl-4-fluoro-6-methyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
6,9a-diethyl-4-fluoro-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
6-bromo-9a-ethyl-4-fluoro-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
9a-ethyl-4-fluoro-6-trifluoromethyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
6-methyl-9a-propyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
6-bromo-9a-propyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
6-cyano-9a-propyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
6-methyl-9a-propyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one oxime;  
9a-butyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
6-bromo-9a-butyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
9a-butyl-6-trifluoromethyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
9a-butyl-6-methyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
9a-butyl-6-ethyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;

9a-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-6-methyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
9a-butyl-6-ethyl-4-fluoro-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
6-acetyl-9a-butyl-4-fluoro-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
9a-butyl-4-fluoro-6-methyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
6-bromo-9a-butyl-4-fluoro-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
9a-butyl-6-cyano-4-fluoro-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
9a-butyl-4-fluoro-6-trifluoromethyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydroindeno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
6-methyl-3,9,10,11-tetrahydro-8,10a-methanoazuleno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(8*H*)-one;  
6-ethyl-3,9,10,11-tetrahydro-8,10a-methanoazuleno[2,1-*e*]indazol-7(8*H*)-one;  
9a-ethyl-6-methyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydrofluoreno[1,2-*d*]imidazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
6-bromo-9a-ethyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydrofluoreno[1,2-*d*]imidazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
6,9a-diethyl-4-fluoro-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydrofluoreno[1,2-*d*]imidazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
9a-butyl-6-ethyl-4-fluoro-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydrofluoreno[1,2-*d*]imidazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
9a-ethyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydrofluoreno[1,2-*d*][1,2,3]triazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
9a-ethyl-6-methyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydrofluoreno[1,2-*d*][1,2,3]triazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
6-allyl-9a-ethyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydrofluoreno[1,2-*d*][1,2,3]triazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
9a-ethyl-6-propyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydrofluoreno[1,2-*d*][1,2,3]triazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
9a-ethyl-6-trifluoromethyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydrofluoreno[1,2-*d*][1,2,3]triazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
6-bromo-9a-ethyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydrofluoreno[1,2-*d*][1,2,3]triazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
6,9a-diethyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydrofluoreno[1,2-*d*][1,2,3]triazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
6-butyl-9a-ethyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydrofluoreno[1,2-*d*][1,2,3]triazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
9a-ethyl-6-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydrofluoreno[1,2-*d*][1,2,3]triazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
6-bromo-9a-propyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydrofluoreno[1,2-*d*][1,2,3]triazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
6-methyl-9a-propyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydrofluoreno[1,2-*d*][1,2,3]triazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
9a-propyl-6-vinyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydrofluoreno[1,2-*d*][1,2,3]triazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
6-ethyl-9a-propyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydrofluoreno[1,2-*d*][1,2,3]triazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
6-allyl-9a-propyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydrofluoreno[1,2-*d*][1,2,3]triazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
6,9a-dipropyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydrofluoreno[1,2-*d*][1,2,3]triazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
6-bromo-9a-butyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydrofluoreno[1,2-*d*][1,2,3]triazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
9a-butyl-6-methyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydrofluoreno[1,2-*d*][1,2,3]triazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
9a-butyl-6-ethyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydrofluoreno[1,2-*d*][1,2,3]triazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
6-allyl-9a-butyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydrofluoreno[1,2-*d*][1,2,3]triazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
9a-butyl-6-propyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydrofluoreno[1,2-*d*][1,2,3]triazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
9a-butyl-6-trifluoromethyl-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydrofluoreno[1,2-*d*][1,2,3]triazol-7(3*H*)-one;

9a-butyl-6-(2-furyl)-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydrofluoreno[1,2-*d*][1,2,3]triazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
6,9a-diethyl-4-fluoro-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydrofluoreno[1,2-*d*][1,2,3]triazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
9a-butyl-6-ethyl-4-fluoro-8,9,9a,10-tetrahydrofluoreno[1,2-*d*][1,2,3]triazol-7(3*H*)-one;  
or a salt or stereoisomer thereof.

6. The use according to Claim 1 which further comprises an antihypertensive agent selected from the group consisting of a calcium channel blocking agent, a beta-adrenergic blocking agent, an angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor, angiotensin-II receptor antagonist, a thiazide diuretic and a peripheral vasodilator.

7. The use according to Claim 6 wherein the calcium channel blocking agent is bepridil, diltiazem, felodipine, isradipine, nicardipine, nifedipine, nimodipine, verapamil or amlodipine.

8. The use according to Claim 6 wherein the beta-adrenergic blocking agent is acebutolol, atenolol, betaxolol, bisoprolol, carteolol, labetalol, metoprolol, nadolol, penbutolol, pindolol, propranolol, sotalol or timolol.

9. The use according to Claim 6 wherein the angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor is benazepril, captopril, cilazapril, enalapril, enalaprilat, fosinopril, lisinopril, moexipril, perindopril, quinapril, ramipril or trandolapril.

10. The use according to Claim 6 wherein the angiotensin-II receptor antagonist is losartan, valsartan, irbesartan, candesartan, telmisartan or eprosartan.

11. The use according to Claim 10 wherein the angiotensin-II receptor antagonist is losartan.

12. The use according to Claim 6 wherein the thiazide diuretic is bendroflumethiazide, chlorothiazide, chlorthalidone, hydrochlorothiazide, hydroflumethiazide, methyclothiazide, metolazone, polythiazide, quinethazone or trichlormethiazide.

13. The use according to Claim 6 wherein the peripheral vasodilator is hydralazine, isoxuprine or minoxidil.

14. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an ER $\beta$  agonist, an antihypertensive agent and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.